In the Claims:

Please amend the claims 1, 19 and 20, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for arranging insurance for an item to be shipped from an origination to a final destination, wherein the method comprises:

performing via one or more computers:

receiving a request, wherein the request is a request to insure the item during shipment from the origination to the final destination;

searching a database to select particular insurance for the item according to one or more insurance criteria, wherein the particular insurance provides a specified level of insurance coverage for the item during said shipment;

generating a data file comprising at least the following:

item information including one or more characteristics of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of said particular insurance, the insurer information specifying the insurer selected to provide said particular insurance during said shipment; [[and]]

storing the data file in a memory device that accompanies the item during said shipment;

> accessing the memory device during or subsequent to said shipment from the origination to the final destination; and

> providing a notification to the insurer specified by the insurer information of said data file stored in the memory device in regard to damage that occurred during said shipment.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device is configured to allow the data file to be updated at any time before, during or after the shipment.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising packing the item in a container for shipping, wherein the container is configured to fit with multiple other containers in a carrier.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding copies of at least a portion of the data file via the network to one or more of the parties involved in the shipping, wherein the parties include at least an originator of the request to ship the item, a recipient of the item at the final destination, and at least one insurance company.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding copies of the data file via the network to one or more predetermined email addresses.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising forwarding a copy of the data file via a network to a central server.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising shipping the item using the least expensive routing.

8. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises contact information for at least one insurance company that will provide said insurance.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing the data file on a server connected to a network, wherein the server provides access to the data file via the network.

10. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein storing the data file comprises storing the data file in an XML format.

11. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the network data is exchanged in an XML format.

12. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the item information in the data file further comprises item weight information.

13. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the item information in the data file further comprises item handling information.

14. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the item information in the data file further comprises item content information.

15. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the insurer information in the data file further comprises one or more of: an insurance carrier that provides the particular insurance, an insurance policy number that identifies the particular insurance, an amount of insurance provided by the particular insurance, and an insurance deductible for the particular insurance.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises one or more digital images of the item before, during, or after shipping.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data file further comprises one or more digital images of the item showing the physical condition of the item upon receipt.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the memory device comprises an air testing device configured to test air samples for contaminants and to store test results in the data file.

19. (Currently amended) A system for arranging insurance for an item to be shipped from an origination to a final destination, wherein the system comprises:

a memory device, wherein the memory device stores information about the item, wherein the memory device accompanies the item during shipment; and

a server connected to the memory device, wherein the server is configured to communicate with the memory device using a network, wherein the server is configured to:

receive a request, wherein the request is a request to insure the item during shipment from the origination to the final destination;

search a database to select particular insurance for the item according to one or more insurance criteria, wherein the particular insurance provides maximum insurance coverage for the item during said shipment for the least cost;

generate a data file comprising at least the following:

item information including one or more characteristics of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of said particular insurance, the insurer information specifying the insurer selected to provide said particular insurance during said shipment; [[and]]

store the data file in the memory device that accompanies the item during said shipment;

access the memory device during or subsequent to said shipment from the origination to the final destination; and

provide a notification to the insurer specified by the insurer information of said data file stored in the memory device in regard to damage that occurred during said shipment.

20. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer system to implement a method of:

receiving a request, wherein the request is a request to insure an item during shipment from an origination to a final destination;

searching a database to select particular insurance for the item according to one or more insurance criteria, wherein the particular insurance provides maximum insurance coverage for the item during shipment for the least cost;

generating a data file comprising at least the following:

item information including one or more characteristics of the item, and

insurer information indicating one or more terms of said particular insurance, the insurer information specifying the insurer selected to provide said particular insurance during said shipment; [[and]]

storing the data file in a memory device that accompanies the item during said shipment;

accessing the memory device during or subsequent to said shipment from the origination to the final destination; and

providing a notification to the insurer specified by the insurer information of said data file stored in the memory device in regard to damage that occurred during said shipment.